

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-19, 22, 24-26, and 29; allowed claims 2 and 3; objected to claims 20, 21, 23, 37, 38, 30, and 31.

Applicants have canceled claims 1, 7, 11, 15, and 18. Currently pending are claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-17, and 19-31, of which claims 3, 6, 14, and 24 are independent claims.

Independent claim	Claims which depend directly or indirectly from the independent claim
3	2
6	4, 5, 8-10, 20-23
14	12, 13, 16, 17, 19
24	25-31

The Examiner has rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaiser et al. (US 5,979,158) in view of Nohira et al. (U.S. Patent 3,895,541). Applicants have amended claim 6 to more particularly point out the invention. A portion of the claim states: "providing assist to the engine by the starter motor to meet a demanded power until a temperature of the exhaust gas treatment system reaches an operating temperature of the exhaust gas treatment device (emphasis added)." Neither Kaiser et al. or Nohira et al. show this limitation. Applicants submit that amended claim 6 is now in allowable form and such allowance is requested. Allowance for dependent claims 4, 4, 8-10, and 20-23 is also requested.

Independent claim 14 contains a similar limitation as claim 6, "a control unit electronically coupled to said engine and said starter motor, said control unit causing said starter motor to provide power to reduce a power provided by said engine until said exhaust gas treatment device achieves an operating temperature." Again, neither reference shows this limitation either alone or in combination. Therefore, they do not render claim 14 obvious. Allowance of claim 14 and dependent claims 12, 13, 16, 17, and 19 is also requested.

Independent claim 24 has been amended to state: "continuing to operate both the engine and the starter motor after fuel is provided to the engine until the exhaust gas treatment device reaches a predetermined temperature." Once again, neither reference shows Applicants' limitation. Allowance of claims 24 and dependent claims 25-31 is requested.

No other art is cited in the Office Action. Based on the foregoing comments, the above-identified application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No.06-1505.

Respectfully submitted,



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